the concerned countries and sectors thus identified, preferential access will end from 1st January 1996.

The impact of the EU's new GSP scheme on our exports will be moderated by the act that our principal competitors will be equally affected. The trade statistics for January 1995 show that our exports to EU during the period have increased substantially over the same period in 1994.

India-Mauritius joint business council meeting

5095. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level business team participated in the meeting organised by the India-Mauritius Joint Business Council in recent past at Port Louis;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether this joint meet will boost trade prospects of both the countries; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A high powered business delegation visited Mauritius to participate in the meeting of the Indo-Mauritius Joint Business Council on 18th and 19th April, '95 and to hold discussions on various issues connected with promoting Indo-Mauritius bilateral trade and investment opportunities as well as to resolve bottlenecks.

(c) and (d) Based on the descussions concluded in the JBC meeting at Port Louis (Mauritius), it is expected that the trade volume between India and Mauritius would double by the end of 1996-97.

Market for leather products in EU countries

5096. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge market is available for leather products in European Union countries particularly Germany;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure that Indian leather industry makes use of such market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The European Union countries account for approximately 40% global imports of leather products One of the leading countries amongst these is Germany which accounts for about 15 per cent of the global imports.

(c) and (d) The European Union countries are major markets for exports of our leather and leather products. Efforts are being made to enhance our market share through participation in fairs, technical upgradation and encouraging joint ventures.

Heavy us tariff on Indian Steel

5097. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 836 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Heavy US traiff on Indian Steel" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated 6.2.95;

(b) whether imposition of heavy tariff on Indian steel by USA is going to affect adversely on our exports; and

(c) if so, the further reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export performance depends upon various factors such as demand and supply, prices, levy of duties & taxes etc. All other factors remaining the same, the imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of stainless steel bars into USA from India may affect our exports. However, it is not possible to state with certainty the likely impact of imposition of tariffs by USA.

(c) Anti-dumping duty is imposed by Governments under national laws conforming to Article VI of the GATT. As anti-dumping actions are directed at the export pricing policies of the individual companies, the main role of the Government generally is to see that such action conforms to the multilaterally agreed disciplines.

Labour shortage affecting Tea Production in Darjeeling

5098. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Darjeeling tea has now come to a standstill;

(b) whether it is due to growing ethnic problem in that area;

(c) if so, how does Government propose to tackle the problem of the shortage of labour in the tea garden; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been a marginal decline in the estimated production of Darjeeling tea during 1994 as compared to 1993 on account of adverse agro-climatic conditions.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Percentage of GDP constituting exports

5099. SHRI G.G. SWELL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of GDP constituting current exports;

(b) what is the quantum figure of GDP;

(c) what are the details for the last three years in terms of percentage of GDP;

(d) whether India has attained export level in terms of percentage of GDP of current year in any previous year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The value of exports and Gross Domestic Products (GDP) at current market prices and the ratio of exports to GDP for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given below:—